

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 LAGOS 02200 072140Z

20

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 NEA-09 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00

COME-00 FRB-01 INR-07 NSAE-00 TRSE-00 XMB-04 OPIC-06

SP-02 CIEP-02 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 INT-05 PA-02 PRS-01

USIA-15 /091 W

----- 076363

R 071551Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8290

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

UNCLAS LAGOS 2200

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EIND, EMN, BEXP, BMEP, NI, PFOR, UR

SUBJ: NIGERIAN DISCUSS STEEL PROJECT WITH SOVIET AND  
FRENCH ADVISORS

REF: LAGOS 1462 NOTAL

1. A "FIRST MEETING ON THE PRELIMINARY PROJECT REPORT ON THE IRON AND STEEL PROJECT" BEGAN MAR 3 IN LAGOS BETWEEN 22 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE SOVIET EXPORT-IMPORT ORGANIZATION FOR STEEL INDUSTRY CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS (V/O TIAJPROMEXPORT), SIX MEMBER OF A FRENCH CONSULTING FIRM (SOFRASID), AND NUMEROUS NIGERIA OFFICIALS. ACCORDING TO A GOVERNMENT PRESS RELEASE, THE MEETING IS BEING HELD TO DISCUSS THE SOVIET REPORT "IN ORDER TO ARRIVE AT DEFINIT SCHEMES ON THE BEST WAY OF PROCEEDING WITH THE STEEL PROJECT." CONTRACT FOR THE PRELIMINARY PROJECT REPORT IS SAID TO HAVE BEEN SIGNED IN JUNE 1973; IT WAS SUBMITTED TO THE NIGERIAN STEEL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (NSDA) TOGETHER WITH A SET OF SOVIET RECOMMENDATIONS IN OCTOBER \*1974.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 LAGOS 02200 072140Z

2. OPENING SPEECHES BY A.L. CIROMA, NSDA CHIRMAN AND

PERMANENT SECRETARY OF THE FEDERAL MINISTRY OF INDUSTRIES, AND BY U.V. BALBASHEVSKY, TIAJPROMEXPORT VICE PRESIDENT, REVEALED DISSATISFACTIONS ON BOTH SIDES.

CIROMA REFERRED TO THE FACT THAT THE FIRST SOVIET PROJECT REPORT WAS PRESENTED IN 1967 AND THAT ANY OTHER DISCUSSIONS HAVE TAKEN PLACE SINCE, INCLUDING GENERAL GOWON'S VISIT TO MOSCOW LAST YEAR. HE CONCLUDED THAT "ALL THE ISSUES AT STAKE HAVE BEEN CLEARED, AND THERE IS NOTHING BEFORE US THAN TO PROCEED WITH THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROJECT WITH UTMOST DESPATCH."

3. WITHOUT ELABORATION, HE SAID THAT RAW MATERIALS THAT HAVE NOT BEEN ADEQUATELY TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION IS THE PRELIMINARY PROJECT REPORT SHOULD BE DISCUSSED NOW AND THE CONCLUSION ARRIVED AT ADDED TO THE FINAL DRAFT. "HE REJECTED A SOVIET RECOMMENDATION FOR COMPLETING ALL GEOLOGICAL SURVEYS BEFORE STARTING DETAILED PLANT DESIGN "IN THE ABSENCE OF COGENT, TECHNICAL REASONS." HE SAID PLANT CAPACITY WOULD HAVE TO BE INCREASED FROM THE ONE MILLION TONS PER ANNUM ORIGINALLY CONSIDERED SINCE "OUR CURRENT CONSUMPTION OF STEEL AND ITS RATE OF GROWTH " REQUIRE FAR MORE BY 1985 (THE YEAR SUGGESTED BY THE SOVIET REPORT FOR PROJECT START UP).

4. FOR THEIR PART, THE SOVIETS MUST HAVE COMPLAINED ABOUT THE INADEQUACY OF SUPPORTING SERVICES BECAUSE CIROMA ADMITTED "THAT INFRASTRUCTURAL FACILITIES ARE POOR AND INADEQUATE, BUT EVERYTHING POSSIBLE IS BEING DONE BY GOVERNMENT TO IMPROVE MATTERS." HE REFERRED IN THE SAME BREATH TO A SECOND WEAKNESS WHICH WOULD HAVE TO BE REDUCED: "METHODS OF WORKING IN OUR TWO COUNTRIES WHICH MAY AFFECT PROGRESS,"/BALBASHEVSKY STRESSED THE NECESSITY FOR MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE SOLUTIONS TO A WIDE RANGE TECHNICAL PROBLEMS.

5. SOFRASID (NOT SOFRA-ACIER AS REPORTED EARLIER) IS THE INDEPENDENT FRENCH CONSULTING FIRM RECENTLY RETAINED BY NSDA. IN THEIR SPEECHES, CIROMA AND BALBASHEVSKY SAID THAT SOFRASID AND TIAJPROMEXPORT HAVE WORKED TOGETHER IN THE PAST ON STEEL PROJECTS IN ALGERIA AND PAKISTAN. THE HEAD OF SOFRAID, M.BENSAUDE, IS ATTENDING THE CURRENT MEETING.  
CROSBY

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** IRON, STEEL, MEETINGS, PROGRAMS (PROJECTS)  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 07 MAR 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975LAGOS02200  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750081-0758  
**From:** LAGOS  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1975/newtext/t19750373/aaaacnhl.tel  
**Line Count:** 99  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION EB  
**Original Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 75 LAGOS 1462  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** ShawDG  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 29 MAY 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <29 MAY 2003 by RuthemTJ>; APPROVED <26 FEB 2004 by ShawDG>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
05 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** NIGERIAN DISCUSS STEEL PROJECT WITH SOVIET AND FRENCH ADVISORS  
**TAGS:** EIND, BEXP, PFOR, NI, UR  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006